

Land Transport Rule Seatbelts and Seatbelt Anchorages

**Consolidated Rule
with amendments incorporated
as at
1 December 2016**

The consolidation of the Rule and its amendments is intended to provide up-to-date details of the current requirements. It is not the official version of the Rule.

Preface

The consolidated Rule brings together the requirements in the principal Rule and its amendments for the fitting of seatbelts in vehicles operated on New Zealand roads. These Rules were produced, under an agreement with the Secretary for Transport, by the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) or its predecessor land transport Crown entities. They were signed into law by the Minister of Transport or his or her delegate under the *Land Transport Act 1998*.

The principal Rule

Land Transport Rule: Seatbelts and Seatbelt Anchorages (the Rule), which came into force on 1 April 2002 states in which seating positions seatbelts must be fitted in vehicles, as well as the type of seatbelt that must be fitted. The aim of the Rule is to ensure that safety requirements for the fitting and maintenance of seatbelts are complied with, and that seatbelts are securely anchored to a vehicle's structure so that they function effectively in a crash.

Amendment 1

Following public consultation, the Rule was amended, with effect from 1 April 2006 to amend the definition of 'vehicle identification number (VIN)'. This is a consequence of the transfer of requirements relating to the assigning and affixing of VINs from the *Traffic Regulations 1976* to *Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2005* and the updating of those requirements.

Amendment 2

The Rule was further amended, with effect from 7 May 2009 to correct an omission from the application provisions of the Rule, by adding vehicles that were registered as new vehicles in New Zealand between 1 January 1991 and 1 April 2002. It also clarified that both lap seatbelts, and lap-and-diagonal seatbelts, are acceptable for fitting in motorhomes.

Amendment 3

The Rule was amended with effect from 1 January 2014 to make changes consulted on in *Land Transport Rule: Omnibus Amendment 2013* that:

- clarify the scope of *clauses 2.6(3) and 3.4* by replacing the references to ‘scratch-built vehicle’ with references to ‘low volume vehicle’;
- revoke the definition of ‘scratch-built vehicle’.

Amendment 4

The Rule was amended with effect from 1 December 2016 to make changes consulted on in *Land Transport Rule: Omnibus Amendment 2016* that clarify that seatbelts fitted in the rear of motorhomes must be—

- in the case of front or rear-facing seats, either lap seatbelts or lap and diagonal seatbelts; and
- in the case of sideways-facing seats, lap seatbelts only.